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PRESIDENT FORD ON INTELLIGENCE REORGANIZATION

ANNCR: PRESIDENT FORD HAS PROPOSED A SWEEPING REORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES. VOA NEWS ANALYST RONALD J. DUNLAVEY DISCUSSES THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS:

VOICE:

THE BASIC PROBLEM OF ANY DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY IS, AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN, HOW TO RECONCILE THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE NEEDS OF THE STATE. IT IS THIS PROBLEM WHICH UNDERLIES THE EFFORT WHICH HAS BEEN GOING ON HERE IN WASHINGTON FOR MORE THAN A YEAR TO STRENGTHEN CONTROLS OVER GOVERNMENT INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES WHILE STILL PERMITTING THOSE ACTIVITIES TO FUNCTION IN A WAY ADEQUATE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY. BOTH THE WHITE HOUSE AND CONGRESS HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD AT THE PROBLEM. CONGRESSIONAL PROPOSALS ARE IN THE MAKING, BUT PRESIDENT FORD HAS ALREADY COME OUT WITH HIS PLAN FOR INTELLIGENCE REORGANIZATION.

AT A NATIONALLY-TELEVISED NEWS CONFERENCE TUESDAY MR. FORD MADE THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS---WHICH AMOUNT TO THE FIRSTS MAJOR REORGANIZATION OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY SINCE NINETEEN FORTY-SEVEN:

FIRST, A NEW COMMAND STRUCTURE. OVERALL POLICY DIRECTION WILL BE ENTIRELY IN THE HANDS OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, CONSISTING OF THE PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY OF STATE AND SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. MANAGEMENT OF INTELLIGENCE WILL BE CONDUCTED BY A NEW COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. AND A BOARD OF CITIZENS WILL MONITOR INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS.

SECOND, A NEW SET OF GUIDELINES WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS. THE PRESIDENT WILL ASK CONGRESS FOR LEGISLATION TO PROTECT AGAINST ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE

AND MAIL OPENINGS. ALSO, SAID THE PRESIDENT--ADVERTING TO ONE OF THE MORE SENSATIONAL ASPECTS OF RECENT INVESTIGATIONS---"I WOULD SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD PROHIBIT ATTEMPTS ON THE LIVES OF FOREIGN LEADERS IN PEACETIME."

AND, THIRDLY, MR. FORD WILL ASK CONGRESS FOR MEASURES TO SAFEGUARD CRITICAL INTELLIGENCE SECRETS FROM SO-CALLED GOVERNMENT "LEAKS."

MR. FORD MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE CONSIDERS INTELLIGENCE ACIVITIES VITAL TO AMERICAN AND FREE WORLD SECURITY---BUT THAT THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS MUST BE PROTECTED. HE ALSO NOTED---IN AN EVIDENT REFERENCE E TO ABUSES WHICH THE INVESTIGATIONS HAVE TURNED UP---THAT IT IS NECESSARY NOT ONLY TO RESTORE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES BUT ALSO TO REBUILD THE CONFIDENCE AND CAPABILITY OF THE SERVICES THEMSELVES.

THE PROBLEM NOW IS TO RECONCILE MR. FORD'S PLAN WITH PROPOSALS WHICH WILL BE FORTHCOMING FROM CONGRESS. THEY BOTH HAVE THE SAME PURPOSE, BUT THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS MAY VARY. AS ALWAYS, THERE IS THE NEED TO DEFINE THE RESPECTIVE LIMITS OF AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT. FROM THE QUESTIONS ASKED AT TUESDAY'S NEWS CONFERENCE IT IS ALREADY OBVIOUS THAT ONE OBJECTION TO MR. FORD'S PLAN IS THAT IT PLACES INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES MORE FIRMLY UNDER PRESIDENTIAL CONTROL, AND CALLS FOR GREATER TRUST IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH---A TRUST WHICH WAS NOTABLY VIOLATED DURING THE WATERGATE ERA. MR. FORD'S ANSWER, OF COURSE, IS THAT "A PRESIDENT OUGHT TO BE ACCOUNTABLE"---AND THAT THE SAFEGUARDS HE PROPOSES WILL MAKE ABUSES IMPOSSIBLE.

WHATEVER THE DIFFERENCES IN CONGRESSIONAL AND PRESIDENTIAL VIEWS, IT SEEMS SAFE TO SAY THAT THEY WILL BE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED. THERE IS ENOUGH AGREEMENT ON BASIC AIMS TO GUARANTEE THAT. THE INVESTIGATIONS OF THE PAST YEAR HAVE BEEN A VALUABLE IF AT TIMES PAINFUL PROCESS, UNIQUE EVEN IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY. IT REMAINS NOW TO ESTABLISH REFORMS IN THE LIGHT OF THOSE REVELATIONS; AND PRESIDENT FORD HAS TAKEN THE FIRST DECISIVE STEP IN THAT DIRECTION.

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